

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the application in light of the following comments is respectfully solicited.

Claim Objections

Claim 15 was objected to because of purported informalities. Claim 15 has been amended. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Claim 5 has been amended. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 5, 18, 19, 23, 28-30, and 35-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication Number 2002/0145669 (“Umeda”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because Umeda, at a minimum, fails to describe or suggest a solid state imaging apparatus that includes, among other features, a signal output circuit configured to perform one of two types of operations, wherein in both of the first and second signal transmission methods, each of the selection signals of the shift register is output via the operation switching circuit to a corresponding pixel included in a pixel group arranged in the

same direction as the shift register, such that all pixels in the pixel group receive a selection signal from the shift register, as recited in claim 5.

The Office Action asserts that FIGS. 22A-22C and 23 of Umeda show this feature. Applicants disagree. Umeda shows a configuration capable of switching between an all pixels read mode of FIG. 22A in which all of the pixels are sequentially read out and a sub-sampling read mode of FIG. 22B in which pixel data is sub-sampled and read out or another sub-sampling read mode of FIG. 22C in which only pixel data of a specific color is read out and pixel data of other colors are not read out. Based on the above, in Umeda, in one of two signal transmission methods, sub-sampling of pixel data *is* performed.

In contrast, in the present application, although the order of pixels to be read is changed between the first and second signal transmission methods, the same pixels are read out in both of the first and second signal transmission methods. That is, sub-sampling of pixel data *is not* performed in either of the two signal transmission methods.

Accordingly, Umeda fails to describe or suggest a solid state imaging apparatus that includes, among other features, a signal output circuit configured to perform one of two types of operations, wherein in both of the first and second signal transmission methods, each of the selection signals of the shift register is output via the operation switching circuit to a corresponding pixel included in a pixel group arranged in the same direction as the shift register, such that all pixels in the pixel group receive a selection signal from the shift register, as recited in claim 5.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 5.

Claim 35, as amended, recites that in both of the first and second signal transmission methods, each of the selection signals of the shift register is output via the operation switching circuit to a corresponding pixel included in the single line pixel group, such that all pixels in the single line pixel group receive a selection signal from the shift register. As such, for at least the same reasons presented above with respect to claim 5, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 35.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 21 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Umeda in view of U.S. Patent Number 5,016,108 (“Akimoto”). Claim 21 depends from claim 5. Therefore, it is believed to be allowable for at least the reasons presented above with respect to claim 5.

Dependent Claims

Under Federal Circuit guidelines, a dependent claim is nonobvious if the independent claim upon which it depends is allowable because all the limitations of the independent claim are contained in the dependent claims, *Hartness International Inc. v. Simplimatic Engineering Co.*, 819 F.2d at 1100, 1108 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Because claims 1 and 35 are allowable for the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all claims dependent thereon are also allowable. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable based on their own merits by adding novel and non-obvious features to the combination.

Based on the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are patentable over the cited prior art. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103 be withdrawn.

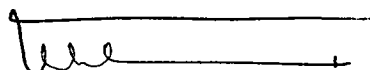
Conclusion

Having fully responded to all matters raised in the Office Action, Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, an indication for which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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